IN THE CLAIMS

For the convenience of the Examiner, all pending claims of the Application are reproduced below.

1. **(Withdrawn)** An input device for use with a system operable to process an electronic communication comprising:

a function button operably associated with selecting a specific electronic communication function; and

an identification key operable to identify the input device in response to a user selecting the function button.

2. **(Withdrawn)** The device of Claim 1, further comprising memory operable to store the identification key.

3. **(Withdrawn)** The device of Claim 2, wherein the memory may be periodically updated to include a new identification key.

4. **(Withdrawn)** The device of Claim 1, wherein the identification key comprises a user password.

5. **(Withdrawn)** The device of Claim 1, wherein the electronic communication function comprises a send button.

6. **(Withdrawn)** The device of Claim 1, wherein the electronic communication function comprises a forward button.

7. **(Withdrawn)** The device of Claim 1, further comprising a keyboard.

8. **(Withdrawn)** The device of Claim 1, further comprising a pointing device.

9. **(Withdrawn)** The device of Claim 1, further comprising the function button operably associated with selecting an email function.

10. **(Previously Presented)** A method for providing an identifier for processing an electronic communication comprising:

receiving a request via an input device to process the electronic communication, the requested process selected from the group consisting of a forward request, a send request, a save request, a delete request, a reply request and a check request;

determining an identification key associated with the input device, the identification key uniquely identifying the input device; and

processing the electronic communication using the requesting process upon validating the identification key.

11. **(Original)** The method of Claim 10, further comprising:

accessing a portion of memory to determine the identification key;

receiving the identification key from the input device; and

comparing the received identification key to a the stored identification key to determine if the input is valid.

12. **(Original)** The method of Claim 10, further comprising:

receiving the request via a port operably associated with the input device;

receiving the identification key from the input device; and

verifying the request and the identification key.

13. **(Original)** The method of Claim 10, further comprising:

quarantining the electronic communication if the identification key is not valid; and

notifying a user of the quarantined electronic communication.

14. **(Original)** The method of Claim 10, further comprising:

determining if the request originated from the input device; and

processing the request if the input originated at the input device.

15. **(Previously Presented)** The method of Claim 10, further comprising:

storing the identification key within a memory associated with the input device.

16. **(Previously Presented)** The method of Claim 10, further comprising:

determining an electronic communication process associated with the input device; and

associating the request with one or more buttons associated with the input device.

17. **(Original)** The method of Claim 16, further comprising receiving an input from a user to select the one or more function buttons.

18. **(Original)** The method of Claim 10, further comprising displaying a function button within a user interface associated with the input device.

19. **(Original)** The method of Claim 10, further comprising associating an encrypted device identifier within the electronic communication upon processing the electronic communication.

20. **(Withdrawn)** A system operably associated with processing an electronic communication in the form of an email comprising:

a processor operable to process the email;

memory operably coupled to the processor; and

an input device operably coupled to the processor, the processor operable to validate a user request via the input device to process an email.

21. **(Withdrawn)** The system of Claim 20, wherein the input device comprises a keyboard including a identification key operable to identify a user request via the keyboard to process the email.

22. **(Withdrawn)** The system of Claim 21, wherein the keyboard comprises memory operable to store the identification key.

23. **(Withdrawn)** The system of Claim 20, further comprising a pointing device including an identification key operable to identify a user request via the pointing device to process the email.

24. **(Withdrawn)** The system of Claim 20, further comprising a graphical user interface operable to display an email software program.

25. **(Previously Presented)** A method for processing an electronic communication in the form of email using a system comprising:

determining an input device operably coupled to the system;

determining an identification key associated with the input device, the identification key uniquely identifying the input device; and

processing an email upon receiving a valid request from the input device to either forward, send, save, delete, reply, or check the email.

26. **(Original)** The method of Claim 25, further comprising:

determining a function button operably associated with the input device; and

receiving an input to process the email via a user selecting the function button.

27. **(Original)** The method of Claim 25, further comprising:

receiving an input from the input device to process the email;

verifying the input device is valid; and

processing the email based on the verification.

28. **(Original)** The method of Claim 27, further comprising processing the email using a function associated with the requested process upon the input device being valid.

29. **(Original)** The method of Claim 28, further comprising associating an encrypted identifier with the email.

30. **(Original)** The method of Claim 28, further comprising:

quarantining the email upon the input device determining the input device is not valid; and

notifying a user of the quarantined email.

31. **(Previously Presented)** An input device for use with a system operable to process an electronic communication comprising:

means for receiving a request via an input device to process an electronic communication;

means for determining an identification key operable to identify the input device, the identification key uniquely identifying the input device; and

means for processing the email using the requesting process upon validating the identification key.

32. **(Currently Amended)** The input device of Claim 31, further comprising:

means for accessing a portion of memory ~~**determine**~~ **to determine** the identification key;

means for receiving the identification key from the input device; and

means for comparing the received identification key to a the stored identification key to determine if the input is valid.

33. **(Currently Amended)** The ~~**method**~~ **input device** of Claim 31, further comprising:

means for receiving a request via a port operably associated with the input device;

means for receiving the identification key from the input device; and

means for verifying the request and the identification key.

34. **(Previously Presented)** A medium including encoded logic for processing electronic communications comprising the logic operable to:

determine an input device operably coupled to the system;

determine an identification key associated with the input device, the identification key uniquely identifying the input device; and

process an electronic communication upon receiving a valid request from the input device to process the email.

35. **(Original)** The medium as recited in Claim 34, further comprising the logic operable to:

determine a function button operably associated with the input device; and

receive an input to process the email via a user selecting the function button.

36. **(Original)** The medium as recited in Claim 35, further comprising the logic operable to:

receive an input from the input device to process the email;

verify the input device is valid; and

process the electronic communication based on the verification.

37. **(Original)** The medium as recited in Claim 35, further comprising the logic operable to process the electronic communication using a function associated with the requested process upon the input device being valid.